

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20

DRC-01 SAM-01 FRB-03 CIEP-02 /177 W

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R 171000Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6934

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIETIANE

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB,UN

SUBJECT: CONTRAST BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND GKR POSITIONS ON
PEACE TALKS

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 9264

B. FBIS BANGKOK 130512Z, 130741Z, 130929Z JULY 74

1. DEPARTMENT UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO NOTED THE SHARP
CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE GKR'S
JULY 9 OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE OTHER SIDE, AND THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF SIHANOUK'S
OFFICIAL RESPONSE THERTO (REF B). WHILE THERE IS
NO WAY OF GETTING AROUND FACT THAT SIHANOUK REJECTED
THE PEACE OFFER OUT OF HAND,IT IS NEVERTHELESS WORTH
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KEEPING IN THE FOREGROUND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE DID

SO AND THE BASIS FOR HIS REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE.

2. THE DIFFERENCE IN TONE AND LANGUAGE OF THE TWO STATEMENTS IS GLARING: SIHANOUK'S IS INTEMPERATE, FILLED WITH INVECTIVE, FOCUSED MAINLY ON ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ALL AND SUNDRY, WITH VERY LITTLE ATTENTION PAID TO THE REAL QUESTIONS OF WAR AND PEACE. BY CONTRAST THE GKR STATEMENT MAKES NO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST NON-KHMER PARTIES, AVOIDS THE LABEL "COMMUNIST", REPEATEDLY REFERS TO THE NEED TO END THE SUFFERING AND KILLING OF THE KHMER PEOPLE, AND INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THE CAUSES OF THE WAR LOOKS TO THE CONDITIONS THAT WILL BRING ABOUT PEACE.

3. THE DIFFERENCES IN SUBSTANCE ARE EQUALLY MARKED. THE GKR OFFER CONTAINS NO PRE-CONDITIONS; IT SUBMITS ALL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSSION; IT WELCOMES THE PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS OF KHMERS OF ALL SIDES; AND IT APPEALS TO ALL OTHER NATIONS TO ASSIST ALL THE KHMERS TO FIND PEACE, NOT MERELY TO SUPPORT THE GKR'S POSITION. ON THE OTHER HAND SIHANOUK ATTACKS THE U.S. "IMPERIALISTS", AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS BY NAME; HE INSISTS ON THE PRIOR CONDITION OF A CESSATION OF AMERICAN AID; HE REFUSES ABSOLUTELY TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THE GKR, WHICH HE LABELS THE "LON NOL CLIQUE" OF "TRAITORS"; HE DECLINES IN ADVANCE PARTICIPATION IN A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL COALITION" (WHICH HE FALSELY ACCUSES THE GKR OF HAVING PROPOSED) AND IN THE SAME BREATH DENOUNCES THE LAO RESORT TO THIS KIND OF SOLUTION; HE PROMISES THAT HE WILL NEVER ACCEPT ANY COMPROMISE WITH THE GKR SIDE: AND, FINALLY HE THREATENS TO CARRY ON THE WAR FOR ANOTHER TEN TO TWENTY YEARS IF NECESSARY. IN SUM, SIHANOUK'S STATEMENT IS NOT A COUNTER PEACE PROPOSAL BUT A FORMULA FOR PERMANENT CIVIL WAR.

4. WHILE SIHANOUK'S REJECTION OF THE GKR OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS IS THE ESSENTIAL FACT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND IS NO SURPRISE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE NATURE AND SPIRIT OF THAT REJECTION OUGHT TO BE KEPT IN THE FOREGROUND IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

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